

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stapler comprising:

a driver that is movable up and down relative to a magazine accommodating connected staples;

a guide surface that guides a movement of the driver; and

a pusher that presses a leading-end staple of the connected staples to the guide surface,

wherein the pusher includes a support surface, wherein a part of the support surface protrudes to an inside of the leading-end staple,

wherein at least the leading end of the connected staples is formed in a C-shape having an upper portion extending lengthwise and having two ends, with an end portion

substantially perpendicularly extending from each of the two ends of the upper portion; and

the support surface is located near and under the center in the lengthwise direction of the upper portion of the leading-end staple.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The stapler according to claim 2 1, wherein the driver includes a pair of leg portions that come into contact with both corners of the C-shaped leading-end staple and push out the leading-end staple.

4. (Currently Amended) The stapler according to claim 1, wherein a protrusion surface of the support surface opposed to the leading-end staple ~~tilts~~ slopes in a driving direction of the driver.

5. (Currently Amended) The stapler according to claim 4, wherein the pusher is urged toward the guide surface, and

when the leading-end staple is driven by the driver, the leading-end staple is moved downward ~~while interfering with~~ toward the ~~tilting~~ sloping protrusion surface, and the pusher retreats in ~~an opposite~~ a direction opposite to the guide surface.